Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED COMMITTEE CITES NON-RESPONSE BY US IN REFUSING PUBLIC INTERROGATIONS

1. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE REJECTED ON DECEMBER 14 THE APPEAL BY FORMER MINISTERS GUI, RUMOR AND TANASSI TO BE INTERROGATED IN PUBLIC ON THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCKHEED CASE. THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN REPORTED AS JUSTIFYING ITS DECISION AS FOLLOWS: "WITH REFERENCE TO THE REQUESTS PRESENTED BY SENATOR LUIGI GUI, BY ON. MARIANO RUMOR AND BY ON. MARIO TANASSI WHICH AIMED AT OBTAINING THE FULLEST PUBLICITY FOR THE INTERROGATIONS, THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY (OF THE COMMITTEE) COMMUNICATES THAT THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED THAT SAID REQUESTS MAY NOT BE AGREED TO BECAUSE THE AUTHORIZATION FORESEEN BY ART. 3 OF THE DECREE LAW OF APRIL 1, 1976, WHICH CONTAINED THE DISPOSTIONS FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT STIPULATED ON MARCH 28, 1976 BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF PARDONS AND JUSTICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED, DESPITE A TIMELY REQUEST FOR SUCH." THE CONSERVATIVE IL GIORNALE REPORTS THAT THE COMMITTEE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE US TWO WEEKS AGO, BUT FAILED TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY WHETHER THE LETTER CONSTITUTED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSTIVIE OR NEGATIVE REPONSE ON PUBLIC USE OF THE

DOCUMENTS.

- 2. THIS DECISION HAS GIVEN THE LEFT-LEANING PRESS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ATTENTION T THE ALLEGED AMERICAN "VETO" OVER THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. EVEN COMMITTEE PRESIDENT MARTINAZZOLI (DC) IS QUOTED BY LA REPUBBLICA (LEFT-WING) AS WRITING TO GUI, "I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT WE CAN'T (COMMENT: INTERROGATE PUBLICLY), THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T WANT IT."
- 3. COMMENT: THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC USE OF THE DOCU-MENTS OBTAINED FROM THE US UNDER THE MARCH AGREEMENT IS LIKELY TO ARISE MORE THAN ONCE AS THE COMMITTEE COMPLETES ITS WORK. IN DENYING THE REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INTERROGATION, THE COMMITTEE ADDED THAT THE ACCUSED WILL BE ABLE TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THEIR ATTORNEY AT THE PUBLIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION AND DECISION (I.E. AFTER NON-PUBLIC INTERROGATION OF WITNESSES IS COMPLETED). WE THUS EXPECT THAT JOURNALISTEC INTEREST WILL REMAIN FOCUSSED ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD USE OF THE DOCUMENTS IN PUBLIC COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS. INTERESTED JOURNALISTS MAY QUERY STATE OR JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON ON THE MATTER. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW JUSTICE'S ATTITUDE ON THE REQUEST ALREADY MADE BY THE COMMITTEE AND ON THE POSSIBLITY OF FUTURE USE OF THE DOCUMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE IN PUBLIC INTERROGATION OF THE ACCUSED. BEAUDRY

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